

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: IOWA ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES	DOCKET NO. WRU-03-2
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ORDER GRANTING TEMPORARY WAIVER

(Issued January 31, 2003)

On January 15, 2003, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a request for a temporary waiver of 199 IAC 25.3(3)"c." This rule, which became effective December 18, 2002, requires that a utility's maintenance and inspection plan include a tree trimming or vegetation management plan. The IAEC, which is a trade association representing 38 distribution cooperatives providing electric service at retail and 5 generation and transmission cooperatives providing electric wholesale service, asks for a temporary waiver on behalf of its members so that the tree trimming or vegetation management plan can be included in each utility's reliability plan. No objections to the request were filed.

In support of the waiver request, the IAEC states it is working with its members to develop a model reliability plan which would include the information required by subrule 25.3(3)"c." Pursuant to 199 IAC 20.18(8)"a," the reliability plan must be approved by a cooperative's board of directors or other governing body by July 1,

2003. Including the maintenance and inspection plan with the reliability plan will save resources and allow IAEC members to coordinate their efforts. The IAEC states that its members currently have tree trimming or vegetation management plans in place, but the plans are not necessarily reduced to writing.

The Board will grant the temporary waiver pursuant to 199 IAC 1.3. It is reasonable for the IAEC's members to coordinate the inspection and maintenance plan, which now must include a tree trimming and vegetation management plan, with the model reliability plan the IAEC is drafting. Granting this temporary waiver will not prejudice substantial rights or negatively impact public safety.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

The request for temporary waiver filed by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives on January 15, 2003, is granted. The waiver will be effective until reliability plans are approved by member cooperatives on or before July 1, 2003.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Diane Munns

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 31st day of January, 2003.